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The Honorable Jeb Bush
Governor
State Of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Bush:

Today you released a Medicaid reform proposal which has the potential of dramatically impacting the level and quality of Medicaid benefits for Florida's neediest patients and the State's health care system as a whole. I am writing to reiterate my request for an open public debate on Medicaid, the challenges the program faces in Florida and potential avenues for reform.

It is clear that as part of your Medicaid reform effort you intend to ask the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to waive federal regulations governing Florida's Medicaid program. Since many federal Medicaid regulations were designed to ensure states are protecting America's most vulnerable patients, any request for a waiver should be taken with great care and consideration. For this reason, I strongly encourage you to allow for a public discussion on your Medicaid reform proposal.

As you know, I serve on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over the Medicaid program. Therefore, while I share your concerns about the Florida Medicaid program's future viability, I feel a strong need to ensure that Medicaid reform not be accomplished at the expense of beneficiaries who rely on the program for their health care coverage. Creating a dialogue between the State, the federal government, the health care community and the public on a bipartisan basis to discuss Florida's Medicaid future will help preserve the success of Florida's Medicaid program.

To help initiate this dialogue, I would be pleased to co-host a public hearing in the Tampa Bay area or a city of your choice. It is critical that the people of Florida have the opportunity to discuss Medicaid reform before you submit your reform proposal to CMS. Under current law, CMS has 60 days to respond to a Medicaid waiver request once it is submitted, leaving little time for this debate.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter and I look forward to your response. Should you have any comments or questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 225-3376.

Sincerely,



Jim Davis
Member of Congress

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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
THE INTERNET
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
AIR QUALITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0911
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